a periodic domain during 1980–2009 regarding scientific productions of Iran in parasitology domain.
Results: Of 72,229 articles written by Iranian authors during 1980–2009, a total of 392 articles (0.54%) were in the domain of parasitology. Some of these articles are due to collaborative works and some of them are non-collaborative ones. Iranian authors of parasitology have many collaborative articles with their counterparts in United Kingdom (UK). Moreover, "Mohebali" with 26 articles was the most productive scientists of parasitology, as well as Tehran University of Medical Science with 114 records (29.08%) was the most productive institution in the field of parasitology.
Conclusion: Our results indicated that the scientific productions trend including research and write down in the domain of parasitology have considerable been increased in 2008. As a whole, the Journal entitled "Parasitology Research" published the 65 citations of all parasitology articles corresponding Iranian researchers.

PP-208 Vascular endothelital growth factor (VEGF) and lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) in the pleural effusions caused by different etiology

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Objective: To explore the clinical validity of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) in the pleural effusions caused by different etiology.
Methods: VEGF in the pleural effusions caused by different etiology were measured by ELISA. LDH measurements were performed on a selective, discrete, multichannel analyzer using standard methodology.
Results:

1. VEGF levels in the pleural effusions were 240.29±11.52, 217.72±49.51, 68.03±50.70 pg/ml in the patients with parapneumonic effusions (PPE), tuberculosis effusions (TBE) and transudative pleural effusions (TE), respectively. There were significant higher VEGF in the patients with PPE, TBE than TE ($P < 0.05$). But, no significantly difference between the patients with PPE and TBE.
2. LDH levels in the sera were 156.75±35.26, 142.94±42.17, 128.57±81.38U/L with PPE, TBE and TE, respectively. No significant difference among them ($p < 0.05$).
3. LDH levels in the pleural effusions were 1135.25±747.85, 328.5±178.89, 126.29±60.16 U/L with PPE, TBE and TE, respectively, there were significant difference between PPE, TBE and TE ($P < 0.05$), and significant difference between PPE and TBE ($P < 0.05$). The ratio of LDH in the pleural effusion and serum significantly difference between PPE and TBE ($P < 0.05$), but no difference in TE.

Conclusion: The detection of VEGF and LDH has diagnostic values in differentiating exudative and transudative pleural effusions, and PPE has more serious infection response than TBE.

PP-209 In vitro efficacy of ceftriaxone and cefixime against respiratory pathogens

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Background: Respiratory tract infections (RTIs) are very common in developing countires particularly in winter months. Major pathogens associated with these infections are *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Haemophilus influenzae* and *Moraxella catarrhalis*. As these infections are a major cause of morbidity and mortality proper knowledge of antimicrobial sensitivity pattern should be known to the physician so as to prescribe correct empirical therapy.
Aims and Objectives: The objective of this study was to find out the in vitro activity of ceftraixone and cefixime against respiratory pathogens.
Materials and Methods: This descriptive cross sectional study was carried out at the Department of Microbiology, Army Medical College, National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan. All respiratory samples were dealt with standard microbiological techniques. Isolated organisms were subjected to antimicrobial testing by modified Kirby Bauer disc diffusion technique and were also subjected to the determination of minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) of ceftriaxone and cefixime. MIC_{50} and MIC_{90} were calculated.
Results: *Streptococcus pneumoniae* was most frequently isolated followed by *Haemophilus influenzae* and *Moraxella catarrhalis*. All the isolates were uniformly susceptible to both the antibiotics.
Conclusion: Ceftraixone and cefixime both are highly effective against respiratory pathogens, however less cost of cefixime and its oral dosing option can make it a better option for treatment of respiratory infections.

PP-210 Comparison of minimum inhibitory concentrations of different fluoroquinolones against respiratory pathogens

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Background: Significant levels of antibiotic resistance, particularly to those antibiotics used to treat respiratory tract infections (RTIs) have emerged worldwide. Fluoroquinolones are considered very effective against majority of respiratory pathogens. So the objective of this study was to evaluate the in vitro activities of fluoroquinolones against respiratory pathogens.
Materials and Methods: This descriptive cross sectional study was carried out at the Department of Microbiology, Army Medical College, National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan. All respiratory samples were dealt with standard microbiological techniques. Isolated organisms were subjected to antimicrobial testing by modified Kirby Bauer disc diffusion technique and were also subjected to the determination of minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) of ciprofloxacin, moxifloxacin and levofloxacin. MIC_{50} and MIC_{90} were calculated.
Results: *Streptococcus pneumoniae* was most frequently isolated followed by *Haemophilus influenzae* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. Majority of the isolates were susceptible to fluoroquinolones. Levofloxacin showed better efficacy against respiratory pathogens.
Conclusion: Levofloxacin showed highest in vitro activity among fluoroquinolones against respiratory pathogens. Physicians should have good knowledge of current antimicrobial susceptibility pattern so as to prescribe effective empirical therapy to patients thus reducing morbidity and mortality.

PP-211 A role for the pneumococcal vaccine during admission for stroke? Observed protective effect against death in the Medicare population

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Background: Pneumococcal infections after stroke have high incidence and mortality. In elderly patients, meta-analyses have shown a protective effect of the 23-valent